



Slavery in Chocolate

Chocolate is one of the most popular products that uses slavery as a part of its production. Cocoa beans, which are the main ingredient in the production of chocolate, are often grown in developing countries where **child/adult slavery** and child labor are prominent. Most of the cocoa production is done in **West Africa, Asia and Latin America, Ghana and the Ivory Coast**. Children between the ages of 10 and 16 are the biggest targets of slaveholders because they are easily deceived. They are forced to work for more than ten hours a day with no food and very little water.

The slaves are made to use heavy machinery, toxic pesticides and are beaten regularly. They are held captive and forced to continue working in the plantations. The slaveholders who often reside in the local community go on to sell the cocoa beans to large companies. Despite international efforts to try and control this cruel cocoa trade, many large companies such as **Lindt, Nestle, Hershey and Mars** have not signed fair-trade and other anti-slavery agreements. Neither they nor we know if any of their cocoa beans were harvested by slaves.

ICI: International Cocoa Initiative, <http://www.cocoainitiative.org>
O'Keefe, Brian. "Was Your Easter Chocolate Made by Forced Labor?". Fortune. 2016.

SLAVERY TODAY

Slavery did not end with abolition in the 19th century: it still exists today and harms millions of people worldwide.

It exists in every country in the world. It includes women forced into prostitution, people forced to work in agriculture, domestic work and factories, children in sweatshops producing goods sold globally. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that around 21 million people around the world are in slavery. This includes 5.5 million children.

Someone is in slavery if they are:

- forced to work through coercion, or mental or physical threat;
- owned or controlled by an "employer" through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse;
- dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as property
- physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom of movement.



Child Slavery in Zara

The issues of **slavery** in the textile industry has become a growing problem. **Refugees** coming from the Syrian conflict are taken advantage of and held captive by textile slaveholders in Turkey. These textile factories supply jeans, shirts and other clothes and accessories to the well-known company **Zara**. Most of these slaves are **children** who are held captive and forced to work in impossible conditions. These children are given virtually no food and are forced to sleep on the ground in these factories where they work. It is estimated that as many as **32% of textile factories** in Turkey use child slave labor to produce their clothes. The Guardian and BBC documented and photographed these children that have been **badly beaten and abused**. Children being held against their will in Turkey has become **uncomfortably prolific**.

CIPS - Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply. "Child Refugees in Turkey Making Clothes for UK Shops - The Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply. BBC, CIPS, 25 Oct 2016. Web.
Brows, Elliott "British Retailers Exploit Child Syrian Refugees in Turkish Factories to Make UK Clothes: Report." Global Citizen. BBC, ad. Web.
Frederik Johannisson in Istanbul; Mersin and Adana "Hidden Child Labour: How Syrian Refugees in Turkey Are Supplying Europe with Fast Fashion." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, 29 Jan. 2016. Web.



Slavery in Tea

What you should know:

Assam, India has some of the largest **tea** plantations in the world, and it remains one of the sites with the most **forced labor** in **tea** production.

Slaves in India are paid less than minimum wage and not nearly enough to live on. They are forced to work overtime, even in brutal weather. There is no access to working toilets, and **slaves** are commonly **beaten** and **sexually abused**. **Slaves** are often **young women**, sometimes as young as **11** or **12** years old. Many are **kidnapped** from nearby villages by people who are planted in their community by the **slave holders**. While many **tea companies** have **fair labor certifications**, many certification agencies do not have the capacities to check 100% of the companies' supply. The following companies are known to buy **tea from Assam**: Twinings, Lipton, Tetley.

What you should do:

- Only buy **tea** from companies with **certified fair labor practices**.
- Regardless of whether you already buy from a **certified company**, reach out to that tea company and remind them that buying **slave free** is important to you as a consumer.

A look into the life of a Tea Slave:

Elaina, 11 years old, and her family worked in **Assam** as **tea pickers**, but unable to leave and unable to afford to live, she was vulnerable to **human trafficking**. She was **kidnapped** and **sold** as a **house slave** in **Deli**. She only just returned to her family.

IKEA's Use of Slavery

In 2010 **IKEA** was held accountable for the manufacturing of **cotton-based products (Duvets and bedding products)** tainted by slavery from its major cotton suppliers, one of which is **Turkmenistan**. The tainted products of **IKEA** include the **Malou** and **Nyponros duvet covers**. **Turkmenistan**: 9th biggest producer & 7th largest exporter of cotton. The state has monopoly over the land, cotton industry and citizens. **Slavery in Turkmenistan** has been described as "state-orchestrated, systematic, and widespread" to meet the executive government's designated quotas on **cotton**. **Compelled cotton picking = slavery**. Slave workers were the public (**doctors, teachers, farmers, children, students and business owners**). This also means the individual is issued a dual-profession for half the salary. The exploited (including District and city officials and regional governors) are at risk of: losing their jobs, businesses, land (farmers), and political careers, if they do not meet or properly implement the quotas. By using **slavery**, the **Turkmen government** violates its **national laws** and the **ILO Convention #105 (1997)** prohibiting **slavery**. Replacement schemes to avoid **cotton** picking becomes the breeding ground for more **child labor**. By using **child labor**, the **Turkmen government** violates **national law** on the banning of **child labor** in 2008. **Anti-Slavery Association**: "Turkmenistan is one of the countries that the **US** has downgraded in its annual Trafficking in Personal report" on the basis of showing no effort to **end slavery**.

Putz, Catherine. "Forced Labor Remains Endemic in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan." *The Diplomat*, 2016
Hays, Jeffrey. "Cotton and Forced Labor in Turkmenistan." *Facts and Details*, 2013